

THE RAGTOP

WELCOME TO THE CLUB

by STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

It's really bad when a day in the 95's seems like a cold front. The lake water is so hot, and the lake is so low I saw Bass sunbathing on the "sometimes" islands just off the dam. Hey, why not. The fishermen couldn't put a boat in the water to catch them if they wanted to (which they don't). Now that's HOT and DRY.....

Many of our Club Members manage to beat the heat on Saturday July 25th. Seventeen of us met for breakfast at "**Frisco's**" and it was really great. We had an early morning drive before it was really hot, talked up a storm about triumphs, and discussed memorabilia that many of us hadn't seen for a while if ever. For example, Brett Liming had original advertisements he had collected over the years as he fixed and sold triumphs, Duncan Charlton had an original TR4 radio that didn't seem fitting for his Morgan, and I had an original TR4A gear shift knob (most had been replaced before they left the dealership). There were nine cars in the parking lot



which drew a lot of attention from the patrons and staff at Frisco's. You know how we like to talk about Triumphs. Those participating were Mike and Nell McPhail (TR3), Dean and Elizabeth Mericas (TR4), Wiley Christal (TR6), Bill Waller (who borrowed Bob Skewis' Spit to get there in), Kathy Smelker (TR6), Harry Taggart (TR6), Brett Liming, Mike Schubert, Jim Icenhower (Spitfire), Greg and Suzy West (TR6), Duncan and Lee Charlton (Morgan +8), Steve and Candy Johnson (TR4A).

The **Progressive Dinner** is scheduled for August 29th. We will start with beverages at Robert and Pam MacKenzie's at 6:00PM, progress to Bob and Barbara Kramer's for dinner at 7:00PM, and have dessert at Greg and Allison Blake's at 8:00PM. What a nice time in the "cool" of the evening (at least cooler than during the day). Driving your Triumph is welcomed, but not required. I'll be sending out details on the

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Progressive Dinner mid August. Please let me know if you would like to attend and how many will be with you so we can do the proper planning
HYPERLINK

"<mailto:stevenjohnson7@sbcglobal.net>"
stevenjohnson7@sbcglobal.net . This will be an event you won't want to miss. Candy and I will be there, and look forward to seeing you there as well.

Don't miss the club meeting Tuesday, August 11th at 7:00 PM. It will be held at Rudy's Bar-B-Q, 7709 North FM 620, just north of RR 2222 (250-8002). You don't have to drive a TR to the meeting to attend the meetings, have fun, and talk Triumph.

Triumphantly Yours,

Steve

HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA TO HOST THE SECOND ANNUAL ROLLING SCULPTURE CAR SHOW ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009 BEE CAVE, TX

The ANNUAL HILL COUNTRY ROLLING SCULPTURE CAR SHOW will return to the Hill Country Galleria in Bee Cave, TX on Sunday October 25th to celebrate all aspects of the car hobby. The entire length of Hill Country Blvd. will be reserved for LBCs and other foreign sports cars, collector cars, antiques, modern classics, exotics, muscle cars, street rods, and art cars parked on display for the public. The focus is on fun and a common passion for everything automotive. Awards will be given by the show's sponsors according to themes they've selected. Last year's trophies included the "Car We'd Like to See in Our Driveway," the "Coolest Car," and the "Editor's Choice." All proceeds, from the registration fee will benefit the Bee Cave Public Library – an organization dedicated to promoting lifelong learning in an inviting environment.

The Hill Country Galleria is the perfect venue for a car show. With live music and more than 200 examples of automotive eye candy parked along a street reserved for pedestrians and lined with shops, restaurants, and a movie theater, it's an event with something to interest every member of the family.

The registration fee to enter a vehicle in the show is \$15 per car until September 27. After that date, the fee is \$25 per car. Mail-in registration must be postmarked by October 14.

The Hill Country Galleria is located on Highway 71 in Bee Cave, Texas, between RR620 and Bee Cave Road. The show runs Sunday October 25th from noon to 6:00 p.m. rain or shine. For more information visit www.rollingsculpturecarshow.com, email information@rollingsculpturecarshow.com, or contact Dean Mericas or Bill Waller.

RUBY REPORT

VACATION'S
ALL I EVER
WANTED!

This
newsletter is
coming to you
via Cancun,
Mexico.

Perhaps the first
international
edition of the
RAGTOP ever. Brenda and I have just spent
relaxing weeks on Isla Mujeres. We are now
back in Cancun at club member Fernando
and Gaby Ortega's house. Brenda is flying
out tomorrow afternoon and I am staying
for a couple more weeks as I have picked up
some work here.

Isla was fun and I even had a chance to
practice my slalom skills!



Don



BOB'S YOUR UNCLE

In typical fashion, El Presidente started the meeting on time . . . just as I came in the door. When the meeting time is 7:00, you start at



7:00 . . . who knew? First up was a discussion of the proposed “Progressive Dinner”. With this being one of the hottest summers on record, this will apparently have to wait for cooler temperatures. Fear not, we will do this eventually! To hide from the summer heat in July, Steve has organized a Saturday morning breakfast run to the new Frisco Shop instead.

Steve offered his congratulations to Don Couch on the look of the Ragtop and everyone agreed that it was consistently good. Don mentioned that he was grateful for the support of members that had been sending in articles. Another thing that helps is being able to send the newsletter out via email . . . allowing for many more pages of useful content (and considerably less expense) than we had with traditional snail-mail. Keep helping Don keep up the good work! Thanks also went out to Mike McPhail for organizing the BBQ run to Lockhart the previous month.

Dean Mericus revealed that he is working on a club trip to the antique car museum in Rosanky . . . but he is not prepared to formally announce it yet. Dean’s second annual Rolling Sculpture car show is “going great” for a repeat of the success of last year. They are expecting 200 cars at the Hill Country Galleria again this year, and pre-registration is now open.

In last month’s Ragtop, we all read about the adventure Greg Blake had with his father in buying

and bringing a TR4 race car back from California. Well, Greg brought his father (Bob Blake) to the meeting to introduce him and give us a progress report on the club’s newest race car. The racing scene is gaining a following with club members, and there will be another as Don Couch is busily gathering parts for a Spitfire racer. We will truly have to make a club trip when all of these members are burning up the competition track in the years to come.

Steve Johnson was prevailed upon to answer a few questions about the 1957 TR3 “small mouth” that was given to him to finish restoration on. Last month’s Ragtop featured a picture of this beauty, but there was a distinct lack of information. Rumor has it that Candy would not let it off the trailer without a covered storage area that did not leave her parking on the driveway. Anyway, look for more information in the future . . .

In other news, Jack Landau attended the meeting as a guest of Bill Waller. Jack is a car guy that is interested in sports cars, so naturally . . . why not the economical Triumph line? Don Couch was generous enough to let him drive Ruby in a few turns around the light poles in the parking lot after the meeting. Ed and Eva Gowett attended with a pair of leather re-covered Miata seats that were particularly nice. They plan to do some driving while attending the VTR National with Mike McPhail and Art Graves this summer. The comfortable seats will compliment the air conditioned driving, and they will no doubt arrive refreshed wherever they roam.

Thanks to those who drove their Triumphs and flew the Union Jack for all to see . . . Willis Thorstad, Don Couch, Dan Julien, Mike and Nel McPhail, and Bob Skewis. I’ll see you on the road . . .

Bob

The Hill Country Triumph Club, the 50th Chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR), was founded in 1990 to bring together the owners of Triumph automobiles in the Central Texas area surrounding Austin. In 1991, the membership decided to include other British car fans as associates due to lack of other clubs in our area that represent some of the other marques. As owners and lovers of our unique types of cars, we have a special kinship, which draws us together. Membership is open to anyone who is a British car enthusiast, with or without a car.

Annual dues are just \$15.00 per family group or address per year. We have dinner meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and at least one other event each month. We encourage you to join and support us, even if you don't drive your car regularly. We also offer technical assistance if needed. One goal of the club is to help its members keep their cars on the road. Please call one of the club officers listed in the newsletter for more information about club benefits and spread the word about our club to others.

The Hill Country Club is a local chapter of the Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)/Triumph Sports Owners Association, which is open to all drivers of Triumph motorcars; a chapter of the Triumph Register of America, exclusively for TR2 through TR4A sports cars; and a chapter of the 6-PACK, dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation, and restoration of the Triumph TR250 and TR6 sports cars. Membership in these national organizations is encouraged. Visit their websites at www.vtr.org, www.triumphregister.com, and www.6-pack.org.

The RAGTOP is published monthly by the Hill Country Triumph Club. Material within may be freely reproduced providing Ragtop and the authors are credited. Any and all newsletter contributions are welcome. Deadline for submissions is the end of each month. Submissions may be emailed to don@dcphotos.com Car related classified ads are free to members and will run for three months unless otherwise instructed. Contact editor for other ads.

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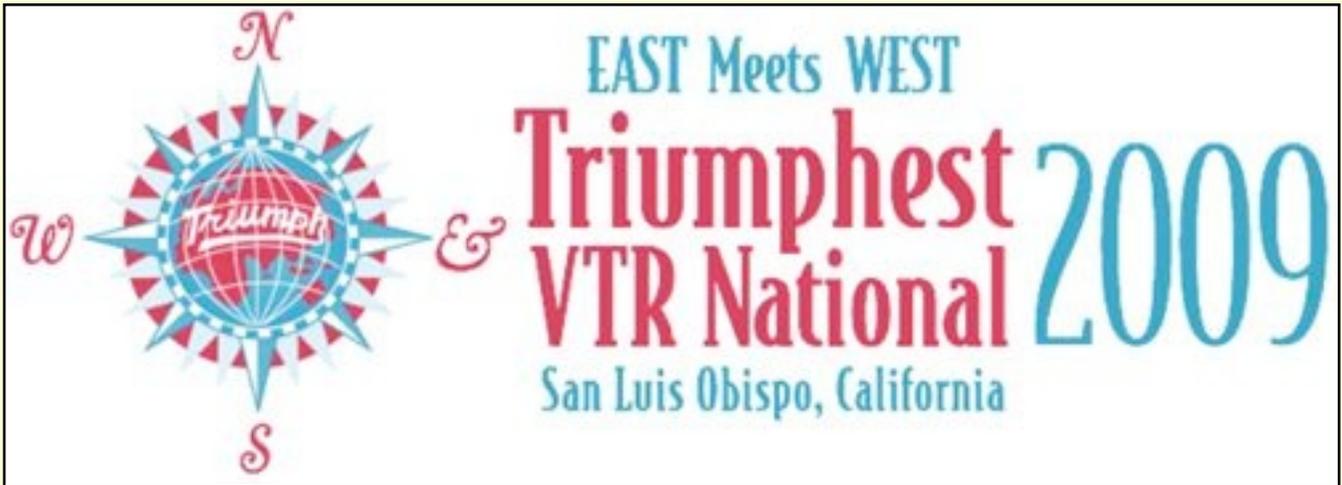
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Membership Application



Name :
 Address :
 City / State : Zip :
 Home Phone :
 Work Phone :
 E-mail address :
 Car Make : Model : Year : Color :
 Car Make : Model : Year : Color :
 How did you hear about the Hill Country Triumph Club?
 Please mail application and check payable HCTC to :
 Nel McPhail, 1105 N. Canyonwood Dr., Dripping Springs, TX, 78260



September 30th through October 4, 2009

Embassy Suites

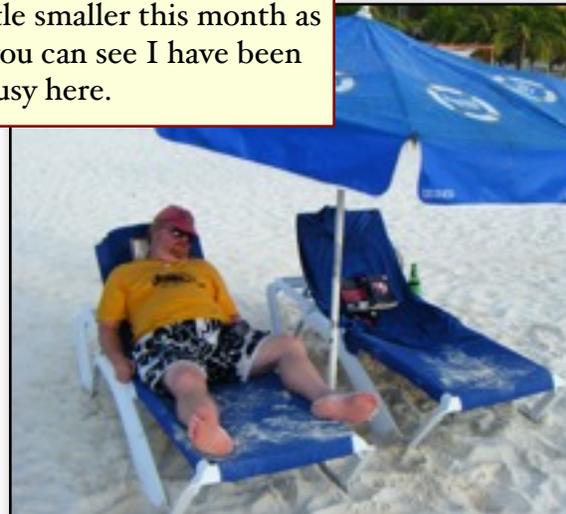
333 Madonna Road,

San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

1-805-549-0800

www.vtr-triumphest-2009.com

The RAGTOP is a little smaller this month as I am in Mexico. As you can see I have been very busy here.



MIKE'S FAVORITE TOOL AUGUST TOOL OF THE MONTH

Not all worthwhile tools are two-fisted 240 volt behemoths. There is a wide variety of obscure but highly useful hand tools that may be missing from your collection. Some of my personal favorites are:

Six inch reamer (there's an off-color joke here somewhere). You know how sometimes you drill a hole in something and it isn't quite big enough...well, a few twists of the reamer and you have the perfect size. It is great for de-burring, too.

Speaking of holes, the exact diameter may be in question. If you have that great big drill bit selection, the bits can become gauges to check out the size. The bit can be measured with a micrometer or matched to the holes in a pocket sized fractional gauge. The same idea works well in reverse to determine the size of bolts.

A power drill may often be overkill for making small holes, and that battery operated model is probably dead. No problem...just whip out the Yankee Drill. This clever hand tool has been around for ever, but is hardly obsolete.

What about getting that little bitty screw to start without dropping it down into the engine compartment, never to be seen again? Specialty screwdrivers are available to hold the screw to the end of the tool. Simple, but effective!

If you must drop all that stuff into the abyss, use the handy-dandy pocket telescoping magnet to retrieve it. For non-ferrous items the fishing tool is the next best thing.

Having a hard time getting those ham-fists into that little space with your big gomby ratchet? Try a stubby with a swivel handle. Couple this with a wiggle end extension and you can get that socket into the tightest places.

Gear wrenches are superb for the tight spots also, and have practically replaced the ratchet. Once again, the stubby variety is the best.



The lowly scratch awl (I'm not even going there...) comes in handy for a variety of tasks. Nice for poking holes in things (oops, careful!), lining up holes in, say for instance, transmission tunnels and the like, or used as a punch to free that stubborn fastener. Too small? Similar objects in varying sizes will get the job done.

Tiny versions of common tools are sometimes needed for delicate work. Picks, files, and baby wrenches come in mighty handy.

Enough of the wimpy hand tools; remember that brute-force will usually overcome skill and patience. The impact screwdriver will either loosen that stubborn screw or bolt, or snap the head right off the damn thing! This tool comes with lots of screwdriver bits, and the ½ inch drive chuck is removable, which allows you to fit big sockets to the tool. Or, heck, put the screwdriver bit and chuck on your big air powered impact wrench and watch the fur fly!

Mike

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE:

- 1978 SPITFIRE 1500 - fresh paint job - powder blue. ready for reassembly \$2900.00 obo
- 1969 GT6 needs restoration, paint, interior \$1000.00 obo
- 1963 TR-4 Restoration in progress, Rebuilt Engine, lots of new parts \$3800.00 obo
- Still have misc. SPITFIRE 1500 parts for sale Call or email for list.

Contact Don Couch for more info (512)-680-3540

[don at dcphotos.com](mailto:don@dcphotos.com)

FOR SALE:

1974 TRIUMPH TR6, CF13666U, 4 SPEED, INLINE 6 CYL., VERY GOOD CONDITION, RUNS STRONG, WELL MAINTAINED, NEW PAINT, TOP, TIRES, BEAUTY RINGS, REAR SHOCKS, BATTERY, IGNITION COIL, NEW AM-FM, CD RADIO WITH BOX REAR MOUNTED SPEAKERS, PREVIOUS OWNER UNDERCOATED, PROFESSIONAL INSPECTED AND EVALUATED. CLEAR TITLE. SELLING BECAUSE OF THE OIL & GAS ENGINEERING BUSINESS DOWNTURN. ASKING \$16,900 OBO. PLEASE CONTACT GARY MYERS AT CELL: 979-877-9420 OR HOME: 979-865-5863.



FOR SALE:

TR6 seats. VG condition. asking \$300.00 for the pair

Harry Taggart
512-346-8642

taggart162@sbcglobal.net



THE RAGTOP - AUGUST 2009



Calendar

AUG 11th, 2009

HCTC meeting - Rudy' BBQ - Brodie Oaks

SEPT. 26 - 27

TXABCD - ROUND ROCK

OCT 25th, 2009

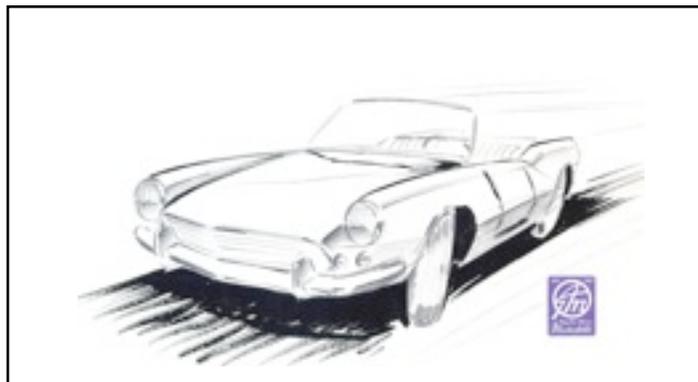
ROLLING SCULPTURE SHOW - Hill Country Galleria

JAN 2nd, 2009

Don's Birthday



1105 N. Canyonwood Dr.
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
address change requested



The next Hill Country Triumph Club meeting will be held Tuesday, August 11, 7 PM, Rudy's Bar-B-Q, 7709 North FM 620, just north of RR 2222. Call 250-8002 for more info.